

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8089
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 07712

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, FR
SUBJECT: THE CGT COMMENTS ON THE CFDT PROPOSALS

REF: PARIS 04163

1. SUMMARY: AMIDST SPECULATION THAT THE CFDT PROPOSALS ON THE NATIONALIZATIONS MAY PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A COMPROMISE AMONGST THE POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE LEFT, THE CGT EXECUTIVE HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT WHICH ALIGNS ITS PROGRAM MORE CLOSELY THAN EVER WITH THAT OF THE PCF; AND RENEWS ITS CALL ON THE CFDT TO JOINTLY HARMONIZE THEIR POSITIONS, SO AS TO BENEFIT THE LEFT'S
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POLITICAL PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE WAKE OF THE PCF'S APPARENT SHOW OF INTEREST IN USING THE CFDT'S PROPOSALS ON THE NATIONALIZATIONS AS A BASIS FOR A COMPROMISE WITH THE PS (SEE REFTTEL), THERE HAS BEEN MORE PRESS SPECULATION THAT SOME KIND OF DEAL IS IN THE WORKS ON THAT BASIS. AGAINST THAT

BACKGROUND, THE CGT EXECUTIVE HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT ON ITS POSITIONS WHICH IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST.

3. GIVING ITS MOST PRECISE POSITIONS YET ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES, THE CGT PROGRAM, AS PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC, IS NOW MORE OPENLY IDENTICAL WITH THAT OF THE PCF THAN HERETOFORE (E.G. NUMBERS OF PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS, ETC.). THE CONFEDERATION GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE ONLY WAY TO IMPLEMENT THAT PROGRAM IS THROUGH THE COMPLETE NATIONALIZATION OF ALL THE GROUPS IDENTIFIED IN THE COMMON PROGRAM OF 1972, AND ALL THEIR AFFILIATES PLUS THE STEEL, AUTO, AND PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES; A GENUINE CAPITAL LEVY AND WEALTH TAX; AND A REORGANIZATION OF BUDGETARY PRIORITIES.

4. THE UNION ALSO WARNS THAT IT IS NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT ANY SACRIFICES WITH RESPECT TO THE WORKERS' INTERESTS; AND THAT THE ONLY BASIS OF UNITY IS THE COMMON PROGRAM. IT THEN ATTACKS THE PS'S RECENT "CHIFFRAGE" AS REVEALING THAT THAT PARTY HAS DESERTED THE COMMON PROGRAM AND THAT, AS SUCH, ITS PROPOSALS ARE HARMFUL TO THE WORKERS' INTERESTS. IT WARNS THAT ITS JOB IS TO TELL THE WORKERS THE TRUTH, AND THAT IT WILL NOT HESITATE FROM DOING SO.

5. TURNING ITS ATTENTION TO THE CFDT'S PROPOSALS,
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THE CGT REMINDS EVERYONE THAT IT WAS THE FIRST TO DESCRIBE THEM AS "POSITIVE"; AND THAT IT AND THE CFDT ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO TRY TO RECONCILE THEIR POSITIONS, PARTICULARLY ON NATIONALIZATIONS. IF THE TWO UNIONS CAN AGREE, THE CGT STATEMENT SAYS, THEN SO MUCH THE BETTER FOR THE LEFT AND ITS POLITICAL PARTIES.

6. COMMENT: IN ESSENCE, THE CGT STATEMENT NOT ONLY BRINGS THE CONFEDERATION'S PUBLIC POSITIONS INTO THEIR MOST OBVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE YET WITH THOSE OF THE PARTY (AND AS SUCH REPRESENT A FURTHER HARDENING OF ITS LINE), BUT ALSO CONSTITUTES A RENEWED CALL ON THE CFDT TO BARGAIN OUT A JOINT PROGRAM. UP UNTIL NOW, WHILE MAINTAINING A DIALOGUE WITH THE CGT ON THE DIFFERENCES, THE CFDT HAS REFUSED TO COMMIT ITSELF TO WORKING FOR ANY SUCH PROGRAMMATIC UNITY. WHAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN NOW IS WHETHER THE CFDT LEADERSHIP CAN RESTRAIN THE ENTHUSIASM OF ITS MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS; AND PRESERVE ITS OWN FREEDOM OF ACTION. IN THIS CONNECTION WE UNDERSTAND FROM A NUMBER OF SOURCES, INCLUDING THE ELYSEE, THAT THE CFDT LEADERSHIP KNOWS

IT IS IN TROUBLE AND, IN PARTICULAR, IS DISQUIETED BY
EVIDENCE OF PCF INFILTRATION OF SOME OF ITS COMPONENT
UNIONS. HARTMAN

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